



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Medical Officer for Maternity

and Child Welfare

OF THE

Borough of Taunton

For the Year 1921

BY

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Report of the Medical Officer of Health,

1921

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Taunton.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1921. This report is drawn up in accordance with Circular 269 of the Minister of Health, who has decided that certain details and particulars need only be given every five years when a full survey report is required, and that the report for 1920 constituted the first survey report. This, for 1921, being counted as an interim or ordinary one and the information given being reduced to the minimum necessary.

The statistics for the year are generally satisfactory, the Infant Mortality figure of 72 is higher than that of 1920 but it is difficult to generalise from the small numbers from which these figures are calculated.

The most serious problem before you is housing and the remedying of the very large number of houses without backlets. The fifty-nine houses completed at the end of the year have helped very little to remedy this. It is to be hoped that it may be possible to continue the erection of more houses.

The Borough Extension has increased the area by 50 per cent. and measures are being taken to bring the sanitary conditions of the added portion up to that existing in the Borough.

The Statistics are vitiated to some extent by the Extension taking place after the Census and the consequent uncertainty as to the exact population figures.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN ALLEN.

10th April, 1922.

EXTENSION OF THE BOROUGH.

On 9th November, 1921, the Ministry of Health Provisional Order Confirmation (Taunton Extension) Act, 1921, came into operation. By this the area of the Borough was increased from 1,390 acres to 2,015 acres. The population (unrevised) in the added area numbered 972 and the dwelling-houses 184. There are also four slaughterhouses (including one not in use) and four Dairy Farms. The town was divided into six wards, each of which elects three members to the Town Council and two for the Board of Guardians.

The areas added are from—	Acres.	Population.
St. James Without ..	182,111	222
Trull	109,801	311
West Monkton	97,908	211
Bishops Hull Without ..	155,915	146
St. Mary's Without ..	78,043	82
 Total	623,778	972

A housing survey of this area was commenced at the end of the year but will take some months to complete.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

As the total rainfall on the watershed during the year was only 19.59 inches compared with 35.33 in 1920 the quantity of water passing into the reservoirs was greatly diminished and it was found necessary to cut off the water supply between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. after 13th June, on the 7th July the supply was cut off at 5 p.m., on the 1st September at 3 p.m., and on 1st October at 2 p.m., at which hour it continued to be cut off for the remainder of the year. Samples of the water were taken at three-monthly intervals during the year and submitted to the County Analyst, these were reported as "quite satisfactory."

Further investigations were made regarding dwelling-houses and other places not supplied with town's water and dependent on well water. Nineteen samples were taken and nine reported polluted, these pumps have been condemned and town's water supplied.

There were in the Borough prior to its extension ten houses dependent on wells for water supply, nine of these have been tested and reported free from contamination, the tenth was under examination at the end of the year.

A great proportion of the houses included by the extension of the Borough are supplied almost entirely by wells. At the end of the year it had only been possible to take samples from the dairies in this area, there are four of these and two were reported as polluted, one has been supplied with town's water and the well closed.

Drainage, Sewerage and Scavenging.

A consulting engineer has been called in to prepare a scheme for the alteration of the sewerage works, this scheme has been prepared and will be laid before the Council at a date early in 1922. There were seven cesspits in the Borough prior to its extension, three in Obridge district, two in Sherford, one in Musgrove and one at Ashmeadows. These were all more than 100 feet distant from the nearest sewer, two of them have overflows. Almost all the houses in the area taken in are connected to cesspits, schemes for the laying of sewers to drain these were being prepared at the end of the year.

A third electric vehicle has been purchased for the removal of household refuse.

Premises and Occupations which are controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.

On 2nd September, 1921, publication was given to an order made by the Minister of Health dated 20th August, 1921, declaring each of the trades or businesses and manufacturers of a Blood Drier, Leather Dresser, Tanner, Fat Melter or Fat Extractor, a Glue Maker, a Size Maker, a Gut Scraper, a Rag and Bone Dealer, a Dealer in Hides and Skins and a Fish Fryer to be an offensive trade. This prohibits the establishment of any new businesses of the above description without the consent of the Council.

There were in the town on the date this order was published :—

Blood Drier ..	..	..	..	..	nil.
Leather Dresser ..	..	..	..	..	I
Tanner ..	..	..	..	..	I
Fat Melter or Fat Extractor ..	..	..	..	..	nil.
Glue Maker ..	..	..	..	..	nil.
Size Maker ..	..	..	..	..	nil.
Gut Scraper ..	..	..	..	..	I
Rag and Bone Dealers ..	..	..	..	..	9
Dealer in Hides and Skins ..	..	..	..	..	I
Fish Fryers ..	..	..	..	..	7

Since this order came into force licences have been granted for the establishment of two premises for Fish Frying after inspection and approval of the premises. Bye-laws for these trades are in preparation.

Other premises and occupations controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations are :—

Bakehouses.	Wholesale.
„	Retail.
„	Underground.
Dairies, Milk Shops and Cowsheds.	
Common Lodging Houses.	
Tents, Vans and Sheds.	
Slaughterhouses.	Licensed.
„	Registered.

Bakehouses.

Under the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, the enforcement of the regulations and provisions relating to all bakehouses were transferred from the Factory Inspector to the Sanitary Authority. A careful and complete inspection was made of all the bakehouses in the area and many defects remedied.

Dairies, Milk Shops and Cowsheds.

There are fifty-four persons registered under these regulations, forty-six within the town and eight in the adjoining district. Within the town there are ten premises where cows are kept and forty-one from which milk is retailed. These have all been inspected during the year. There are also three depots where milk is received from the producer and then put through a "flash" pasteuriser before either being retailed in the town or despatched to other areas. This "pasteurisation" by the flash method is in my opinion useless and even harmful, by it the only bacteria destroyed are those which cause the milk to turn sour, while the harmful bacteria are thus given a better opportunity to multiply without any apparent change taking place in the milk. These depots are all fitted with steam jets for cleaning and sterilising the churns, all are using town water in the coolers. The area added to the Borough included four dairy farms, all using well water, samples analysed showed that two were polluted, one has already been supplied with town's water while the other is being connected to the main.

Slaughterhouses.

The number of slaughterhouses in use in the district is :—

Registered, 7 ; Licensed, 5 ; Total, twelve.

The increase of three on the previous year is due to the fact that these were in the district added in the extension. There is also an old registered one in the added area, last used as a slaughterhouse in September, 1920, and now used as a garage.

The new Model Bye-laws for slaughterhouses have been adopted and came into force on 1st November, 1921. These include the regulation 9 (b) requiring the use of a proper mechanically operated instrument for all slaughtering, but this regulation does not come into action until 1st February, 1922.

Application was made again twice this year for a licence to re-open an old registered slaughterhouse on the Cheddon Road. This building is four feet from one dwelling-house, abutts another, is without a water supply and the floor level is below that of the adjoining ground, a licence was refused on each occasion.

Common Lodging-houses.

The number registered was one. Another premises which had been in use as such was not registered, a request for registration was made by the occupier but after hearing my report on this place the registration was refused and the premises have now ceased to be used for this purpose.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

The Model Bye-laws for the regulation of these were adopted on 13th September, 1921, and passed by the Minister of Health on 25th October, 1921.

Fields in two parts of the town have been used by van dwellers and travelling shows, there is no suitable closet accommodation on either of these grounds and it will in future be necessary for the persons letting these grounds to provide this if these fields are again let for this purpose.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Diseases notifiable are :—

- Small Pox.
- Cholera.
- Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.
- Erysipelas.
- Scarlet Fever and Scarlatina.
- Typhus Fever.
- Typhoid Fever (including Enteric and Paratyphoid Fevers).
- Relapsing and Continued Fevers.
- Puerperal Fever.
- Cerebro-spinal Fever.
- Acute Poliomyelitis.
- Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
- Measles.
- German Measles.
- Tuberculosis (all forms).
- Malaria.
- Dysentery (Amœbic and Bacillary).
- Trench Fever.
- Acute Primary Pneumonia.
- Acute Influenza Pneumonia.
- Encephalitis Lethargica.
- Acute Polio Encephalitis.
- Anthrax.

Diphtheria.

These are recorded as clinical and bacteriological, the clinical cases include all those who have some acute symptoms of the disease, while the bacteriological cases are those without clinical signs but who have been found on swabbing to have the Diphtheria Bacillus present. In the bacteriological cases the bacillus may either be virulent and so able to give the disease to others or it may be avirulent and not likely to give rise to the disease to others, both strains appear the same under the microscope and virulence can only be proved by testing the bacteria on guinea pigs. The practice of swabbing all contacts in the home after removal of the case to hospital has been continued.

The number of cases notified shows an increase in comparison with 1920 but of these, sixteen clinical and six bacteriological cases were from a residential school for boys. The medical officer to this school by careful swabbing of contacts has it is believed discovered the cause of these cases, one boy (a bacteriological case) was sent into the Isolation Hospital in July and discharged after

three consecutive negative swabs from both nose and throat in September.

A recrudescence of cases after his return led to his being swabbed again when he was found to still harbour the Diphtheria Bacillus in his nose and he was again isolated, since this no more cases have appeared at this school.

A schoolgirl was brought to the school clinic by the mother complaining of a vaginal discharge, some membrane could be seen and swabbing showed Diphtheria Bacillus present, on examining the other members of the family another child was also found to have a sore on the skin also containing Diphtheria Bacilli, this strain was tested and proved to be virulent.

The only death from this disease was of a child, aged five, who died the day notified and before she could be removed to hospital. Five of the cases were discovered through the visits of the school nurses to the homes of children absent from school and as no doctor had been called in were reported to me, when I visited and found these to be cases of Diphtheria.

Another girl was found at a routine medical inspection in school to have a blood-stained nasal discharge, she was excluded and removed to hospital, two of her sisters were found to be bacteriological cases and removed to hospital also.

Bacteriological Examinations.

Swabs from all cases are sent to the Public Health Laboratory of the Somerset County Council at Weston-super-Mare.

The number of swabs taken by me was 154, of these eighteen were reported as showing Diphtheria Bacilli present.

Antitoxin or Anti-Diphtheria Serum.

A supply of this is kept at the Public Health offices and also at the residence of the Medical Officer and is available at any time of the day or night. No charge is made for it and the stock by arrangement with the manufacturer is kept in a fresh condition.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF THE CASES.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Clinical	4	5	3	1	2	1	7	—	1	3	4	2
Bact.	1	—	—	—	2	2	4	—	—	1	4	—

Scarlet Fever.

The cases were all of a mild type.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF THE CASES:—

Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
4	3	3	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	1

Enteric Fever.

This case was notified in June. The disease was most probably contracted in another area. A resident in another district suffering from this disease was found to have made a short stay in this area, but after extensive enquiries it appeared that the illness was not contracted here.

Pneumonia, Acute Primary and Influenza.

These diseases were made notifiable in 1919 but although the medical practitioners were informed of this, from information gathered from the returns of deaths this fact appears to have been overlooked in some cases. One practitioner sent a list of nine cases which he had omitted to notify while two other cases came to my knowledge. These figures of the cases actually notified are therefore of little value.

Monthly Incidence (including some cases not notified) :—

Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
I	—	—	—	3	I	I	—	I	—	—	I

Measles.

After the epidemic in 1919 and 1920 a large number of children in the town have either had the disease or proved immune to it, in consequence the number notified this year is very small. Four of the cases were from the Barracks, these were all removed to the Isolation Hospital. It did not prove necessary to supply nursing aid to any of the cases nursed at home.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

One case was notified in January, a male aged 18 years. The illness commenced early in January with severe drowsiness and headache, he was admitted to the Taunton and Somerset Hospital on 1st February and notified from there. His main symptoms were marked drowsiness, enlargement of the cervical glands, with a flaccid paralysis of the right arm and leg and also paralysis of the sphincters. There were no eye symptoms. He died on 7th February, 1921.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

One case was notified in February, a girl age seven; she was nursed at home, being too ill for removal; she died two days after notification. There were seven contacts, post-nasal swabs were taken from all these and found to be free from meningococci.

Tuberculosis.

The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1921, were issued during the year and came into force on 1st May. Briefly these require the Medical Officer of Health to revise the register of all cases kept by him at least once in three months, by removing from it deaths and removals of persons who have ceased to live in the district, also to keep an accurate record of the number of cases living in the area. It is also necessary to enter the names of those removing in from other areas and to inform the Medical Officer of Health of the other district when a case has gone to live there permanently. From the register kept it appears that there are 484 persons notified as suffering from this disease in the district (including the area absorbed in the Borough Extension).

These are classified as :—

Pulmonary	Male 171	Female 190	Total 361
Non-Pulmonary	,, 61	,, 62	,, 123
	Male 232	Female 252	Total 484

The cases notified during the year numbered 108, eighty-three being Pulmonary and twenty-five Non-Pulmonary. A description of the methods of disinfection were given in the report for 1920.

On receipt of a primary notification the Sanitary Inspector visits the home, examines the house and takes steps to secure the removal of any sanitary defects, he also enquires into the number of people living there, the sleeping accommodation available and the disposal of the spit or other discharges likely to carry infection. The Medical Officer of Health as School Medical Officer refers all children, seen by him and suspected, to the Tuberculosis Officer at the Dispensary at Priory Avenue.

On the death of a case or removal to a Sanatorium or other address the rooms occupied are disinfected by spraying the walls and floors with a solution of Izal, while the bedding, etc., is removed to the disinfecting station and wetbaked in the steam disinfecter.

The Taunton and District Tuberculosis Care Committee (of which the Medical Officer of Health is a member) has continued to supply extra nourishment such as milk and eggs to necessitous cases. It has also been of very great assistance in supplying such cases with warm clothing and boots when going into Sanatoria. The assistance rendered by this voluntary Association is very valuable and highly appreciated by the patients.

The number of deaths attributed to Tuberculosis was twenty-seven. The proportion of deaths not notified was ten per cent., while the notification of two cases were received on the day of death.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Five cases were notified among the 456 births registered, three by private practitioners and two as a result of visits paid by me to cases reported by the Health Visitor.

The methods available for the control of this disease are :—

- (1) Notification by the Midwife or general practitioner attending the confinement of the mother and also reports on cases which may have been missed by the above by the Health Visitor who visits all births after the tenth day. The Medical Officer of Health visits all suspicious cases reported to him by the Health Visitor. A specimen of the discharge from the eyes is taken and sent for microscopic examination.
- (2) TREATMENT. Cases may be either treated at home by the general practitioner in attendance or, by arrangement with the Venereal Disease Department of the Somerset County Council, they can be admitted to the Taunton and Somerset Hospital as in-patients.

Visits were paid by me to twelve suspected cases and ten smears taken for examination, of these two showed gonococci present.

Notified	CASES.		FINAL RESULT.			
	Treated		Vision Un- impaired	Vision Im- paired	Total Blind- ness	Deaths
	At Home	In Hospital				
5	4	1	5	Nil	Nil	Nil

Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

No contacts with Small Pox were known to be in the area. No vaccinations were performed under these regulations.

Epidemic Diarrhoea.

During the year nine children under one year of age died from this disease giving a death rate of 19.7 per thousand children born. The monthly distribution of the deaths was :—

Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
—	—	—	I	—	—	—	2	—	2	3	I

Of these deaths seven were in houses without either a pantry or ventilated food store, no through ventilation and no water supply within the house, and six were being fed by the bottle or given biscuit. The measures adopted to prevent this disease include :—

- (1) Home visits by the Health Visitor.
- (2) Advice at the Infant Consultations.
- (3) Sale of Dried Milk at the Welfare Centre.
- (4) A frequent survey of the town by the Sanitary Inspector to secure the weekly removal of stable manure and thus removing suitable breeding places for flies.
- (5) Inspections of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops to see that the regulations for these premises are carried out.

The weather conditions in the summer and autumn were particularly favourable for this disease, the weather being hot and dry.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The arrangements for attending to the health of the expectant and nursing mothers and children under five years of age were described in the report for 1920 ; these are unchanged.

Work of the Health Visitor.

First Visits.	Ante-natal	..	..	88	
" "	Still Births	..	..	16	
" "	Under one year	..	..	412	
				—	516
Re-Visits.	Ante-natal	..	..	132	
"	Under one year	..	..	1837	
"	Between one and two years	..	..	1034	
"	Between two and three years	..	..	654	
				—	3,657
					—
				—	4,173

Births during 1921.

The total number of births registered was 456, giving a birth rate of 19.1 per thousand of the population.

Of these births 240 were male and 216 female, while twelve boys and thirteen girls were registered as illegitimate, making the total number born out of wedlock twenty-five and an illegitimate birth rate of 1.0 per thousand of the population.

Notification of Births Acts, 1907 and 1915.

The number of births notified to me under these Acts within thirty-six hours of the birth was 412.

Still births numbered twenty, being 4.8 per cent. of the births notified.

Infant Mortality.

The net deaths of infants under one year of age numbered thirty-three, giving an infantile mortality rate of 72.0 per thousand children born, an increase on the rate of fifty for 1920. Forty per cent. of these deaths were due to causes operating before the birth of the child. The number of deaths from Diarrhoea was larger than normal, due to the abnormally dry and hot weather.

THE CAUSES OF THE DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total under 1 year
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Broncho-Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	...	...	2	2	2	4	1	...	9
Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	9	1	...	1	11	...	1	...	...	12
Atrophy and Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Congenital Defects	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Accidental Death	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2
"Convulsions"	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Uncertified ...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Total	12	2	—	4	18	5	7	3	—	33

Legitimate	...	...	...	30
Illegitimate	...	...	...	3
				33

The Infant Welfare Centre.

Meetings are held once per week, on the 16th November, at the request of several of the voluntary workers, the meeting day was changed to Tuesday. The medical side was open on fifty-two afternoons and the medical officer attended on forty-nine of these. Three voluntary helpers attend, weigh the babies and record the weight on a card kept by the mother.

The number of consultations given was 710 and of these 133 had not attended previously.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Orders.

The Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919, continued in force until 4th April, on this date it was cancelled by the Milk (Mothers and Children) Rescission Order, 1921, the issue of milk had to cease while a new scheme was prepared for sanction by the Ministry of Health. This new scheme was approved on 23rd May and milk was then again issued free to necessitous cases.

On 26th August the Ministry of Health issued Circular 234, modifying the grant for expenditure on milk and in consequence the issue of milk had to stop after the 30th September. This was again altered by a letter from the Ministry whereby the full grant for expenditure on milk was restored up to March the 31st, 1922. The issue of milk orders was in consequence resumed on 26th October, 1921.

The conditions under which milk was supplied free or at half cost to necessitous cases were to :—

1. (a) Nursing mothers.
(b) Expectant mothers in the last three months of pregnancy.
(c) Children up to three years of age and exceptionally to children between three and five years of age.
2. The quantity of milk supplied must not exceed one pint per day per person, but in exceptional cases of infants between three and eighteen months one and a half pints per day may be supplied.
3. The Medical Officer of Health is to be satisfied that the supply of milk is essential on the grounds of health and where milk is granted to children between three and five years a medical certificate is required.
4. Nursing mothers are only to be supplied with milk when they are actually suckling their children.
5. Applicants are required to give the total number in the family, ages, occupations, where employed, wages (which have to be proved by the signature of the person paying), and school attended by children, the statement has also to show any other source of income, e.g. from lodgers, pension or unemployment benefit, etc. The application has finally to be signed by the husband and wife. A definite scale proportionate to the number in the family has been adopted and the total income after deduction of rent is compared with this. If below this scale the application is submitted to the chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee for his approval and signature, as soon as possible after its return to this office (generally the same day) the milk order is then dispatched to the applicant. The applicant is also required to bring the children for whom milk is supplied to the infant welfare centre for weighing every twenty-eight days. The order is made for twenty-eight days and when about to expire the applicants are requested to sign a statement that there is no change in the income given in the first application.

The income scale was reduced in November in proportion to the fall in the cost of living. This income scale and the manner of application is identical with that used for the Canteen Committee for applicants for free meals and spectacles, in fact the same application form is used when necessary for all three purposes and one application only is necessary for both free milk and meals.

The issue of milk at half price ceased on the revision of the system on 23rd May.

Number of Families supplied with Milk free	95
ditto ditto ditto at half cost	42

Total 137

Number of Free Milk orders issued for 28 days or less	..	287
Ditto half price ditto ditto	..	73
		—
	Total	360
		—

A supply of dried milk (Glaxo and Cow and Gate) in one pound cartons is also kept at the Centre, this is sold at cost price to mothers in regular attendance, the quantity sold during the year was 532 pounds.

Day Nursery.

This institution which was dependent for its maintenance on voluntary subscriptions had owing to inadequacy of these to close on the 4th March. It served a most useful purpose and its closure is greatly to be regretted.

Boarded Out or Foster Children.

The Health Visitor and the two School Nurses have been appointed Infant Life Protection Officers. A list of all such children has been sent me by the Clerk to the Board of Guardians. These are all visited quarterly by either the Health Visitor or School Nurses according to age and reports sent to the Board of Guardians. One home was reported as unsuitable and two children there removed.

TAUNTON BOROUGH SANITARY DISTRICT.

Sanitary Inspector's report of the work completed in the year 1921. James W. Northcome, F.I.S.E., Certified Inspector.

Number of Informal Notices given	267
Number of Statutory Notices served	49
Houses and premises cleansed and repaired	293
Defective Roofs repaired	43
,, Courtyards repaired	10
,, Windows repaired	33
,, Shutes repaired	21
,, Floors made good	45
,, Waste troughs made good	10
New Waste troughs fixed	7
House Drains, soil pipes repaired	2
,, ,, drains relaid, cleansed, etc.	121
Water Closets, New provided	3
,, ,, Repaired and made good	113
Water Supply, Wells filled up	3
,, ,, Main taps fixed	2
Overcrowding abated	3
Animals removed, improperly kept (Instances)	127
Removal of Dung, animal and other refuse	34
Dust removed, communications received and attended to	155

Visits and Inspections of the Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1921.

Slaughterhouses	186
Bakehouses	114
Common Lodging Houses	16
Dairies and Milk Shops	201
Cowsheds	33
Manure	73
Cesspit	6
General	1620
Hide and Skin Depot	69
Gut Scrapers	8
Tanner	5
Rags, Bones and Skins	35
Fried Fish	10
Tripe Boilers	8
Tents, Vans and Sheds	5
Houses Inspected	671
 Total	3,060

Disinfecting for the Year 1921.

Houses disinfected after infectious illnesses :—

Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	102
Other Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	84
Verminous	..	..	..	..	..	30
Venereal	..	..	..	..	..	4
Military	..	..	..	..	..	16
						—
					Total	236
						—

Articles of Bedding, etc., disinfected at the Steam Disinfector during the Year 1921.

Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	644
Other Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	1537
Verminous and Scabies	..	..	..	..	..	1268
Military	..	..	..	..	..	409
						—
					Total	3,858
						—

The Van used for the removal of infected articles to the steam disinfecter has been disinfected 133 times.

The quantity of meat destroyed at the destructor during the year 1921 was 2 tons 7 cwt. 3 qrs. 6 lbs. and fifty-five tins of milk, etc., destroyed.

APPENDICES.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1921.

Population at Census, 1911	..	..	..	22,563
Population at Census, 1921 (June)	..	..	..	23,219
Population at Census, 1921 (adjusted according to the added area)	..	..	..	23,440
Area in Statute acres—pre extension	..	..	..	1,390
Area in Statute acres—post extension	..	..	..	2,015
Density of population over whole area	..	..	..	11.6
Births registered—Legitimate	..	..	..	456
Births registered—Illigitimate	..	..	..	25
Birth rate	..	..	..	19.4
Birth rate—Illigitimate	..	..	..	1.0
Deaths (after correction for inward and outward transfers)				291
Death rate (crude)	..	..	..	12.4
Death rate (corrected for age and sex distribution)				Not known.
Infant Mortality (per 1000 births)	..	..	..	72.1
Deaths, female, in consequence of child birth—				
(a) From sepsis	..	..	..	Nil.
(b) Other causes	..	..	..	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea under two years of age	..		..	10

ENGLAND AND WALES FOR THE YEAR 1920.

Birth rate	..	..	..	..	22.4
Death rate	..	..	..	..	12.1
Infant Mortality (per 1000 births)	..	..	..	..	83
Rateable value—pre extension	..	..	..	£	111,480
Rateable value—post extension	..	..	..	£	118,565
Sum represented by a penny rate—pre extension	..			..	£394
Sum represented by a penny rate—post extension	..			..	£415

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

- (a) General—Two belonging to the Taunton District Nursing Association.
- (b) Infectious Diseases—Nil, but the Taunton District Nursing Association will nurse Measles cases if requested by arrangement with the Public Health Committee.

Midwives.

There are four midwives practising in the district, two of these belong to the Taunton District Nursing Association. The Local Authority do not pay or make any grant to these.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre. One belonging to the Local Authority and held at the Technical Institute once weekly.

Day Nursery.

Closed on 4th March, 1921.

School Clinic.

One Inspection Clinic; Treatment provided for Minor Ailments; Defective Vision; Dental (School Children only), provided by Local Education Authority and held daily at the Technical Institute.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

One provided by Somerset County Council and situated in Priory Avenue.

Venereal Diseases Clinic.

One provided by the Somerset County Council and held in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital. Women are seen on Tuesdays at 2.30 p.m. and men on Saturdays at 4 p.m.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

1.—TUBERCULOSIS. A Sanatorium with twenty beds on the Cheddon Road provided by the Somerset County Council.

2.—MATERNITY. Nil. The Taunton and Somerset Hospital will not admit uncomplicated maternity cases. Pauper cases are admitted into the Union Infirmary in Trinity Street.

3.—CHILDREN. A separate ward of fifteen beds in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital is reserved for children.

4.—FEVER. The Hospital for this purpose is situated on the Cheddon Road. It is administered by a joint Committee of the Somerset County Council, Taunton Rural District Council and Taunton Borough Council. It has accommodation for seventy cases.

SMALL POX. There does not appear to be any means of Isolating cases in the County.

OTHER. The Taunton and Somerset Hospital, situated in East Reach, Taunton—107 beds. General and Surgical cases are admitted.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a)—Infectious cases. An ambulance brougham holding one stretcher is kept at the Isolation Hospital: a horse is hired from a local contractor to move this as required. It has to serve a district pointing ten miles north-west, ten miles north-east, and ten miles south of Taunton.

(b)—Non-Infectious and Accident cases. A horse ambulance belonging to the Taunton and Somerset Hospital is available for these purposes, it is kept at livery stables in the centre of the town and a horse is provided by the proprietor when necessary. There is also a hand propelled two-wheeled ambulance kept in a shed on the parade and available by sliding a panel in the door.

LABORATORY WORK.

All material for bacteriological or chemical analysis is sent to the Public Health Laboratories of the Somerset County Council in Weston-super-Mare. Material for examination from venereal cases is sent to Professor Walker Hall, Pathology Department of the University of Bristol. Outfits for examination of diphtheria, typhoid and venereal diseases are kept at the Public Health Department in the Municipal Buildings. Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free and is kept at the same address and also at the residence of the Medical Officer in Castle Green.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1921.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	AGE GROUPS OF CASES NOTIFIED.										Deaths to Hospital
	Cases Admitted to Hospital										
Total of all Ages										Deaths over 65 years and 45 to 65 years 35 to 45 years 20 to 35 years 15 to 20 years 10 to 15 years 5 to 10 years 4 to 5 years 3 to 4 years 2 to 3 years 1 to 2 years Under 1 year	
Diphtheria, Clinical	...	...	1	3	6	14	5	4	...	33	29
Bacteriological	...	...	1	1	4	7	2	1	...	14	12
"	...	1	2	...	5	4	1	2	...	16	14
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia, Acute Primary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2
" Acute Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
Measles (excluding German Measles)	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	...	11	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	5	...
German Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...
Tuberculosis—									6	...	36
Pulmonary	M.	...	...	...	10	6	2	11	6	...	13
	F.	...	...	...	1	8	6	17	5	3	19
Total		...	...	...	18	12	8	28	11	3	32
M.	...	1	1	1	...	2	1	4	1	...	10
F.	...	1	1	1	...	3	5	15	1	3	15
Non-Pulmonary		...	...	...	1	1	1	5	2	2	8
Total		...	...	...	1	1	1	7	2	2	25

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	CIVILIANS ONLY.					Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES	135	156
1. Enteric Fever	—	—
2. Small Pox	—	—
3. Measles	—	—
4. Scarlet Fever	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Diphtheria	—	1
7. Influenza	—	2
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	1	...	—
9. Meningococcal meningitis	—	...	1
10. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	8	...	11
11. Other Tuberculous diseases	3	...	5
12. Cancer, malignant disease	14	...	17
13. Rheumatic Fever	—	...	—
14. Diabetes	3	...	2
15. Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	7	...	9
16. Heart disease	15	...	14
17. Arterio-sclerosis	1	...	1
18. Bronchitis	10	...	13
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	4	...	7
20. Other respiratory diseases	3	...	—
21. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	...	—
22. Diarrhoea, etc. (under two years)	5	...	5
23. Appendicitis and typhlitis	1	...	—
24. Cirrhosis of Liver	2	...	—
25. Acute and chronic nephritis	6	...	5
26. Puerperal sepsis	—	...	—
27. Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	—	...	1
28. Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	8	...	6
29. Suicide	1	...	1
30. Other deaths from violence	5	...	4
31. Other defined diseases	36	...	51
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	...	—

Deaths of Infants under one year. Total	...	18	...	15
Illegitimate	...	1	...	2
Total Births	...	240	...	216
Legitimate	...	228	...	203
Illegitimate	...	12	...	13
Population, 23,440				

These figures include the births and deaths registered after 9th November in the area added to the Borough; the population has been adjusted accordingly.

The Acts (General Adoptive) in force in this area are as follows :—

	Date adopted.
Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890	November, 1890
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	October, 1890
Public Libraries Act, 1892	October, 1902
Private Street Works Act, 1892	June, 1906
Notification of Births Act, 1907	August, 1908
Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907	May, 1909
Provisional Order Confirmation (Taunton Extension) Act, 1921	9th November, 1921

The Bye-laws and Local Regulations relating to the public health in force in the Borough include the following :—

	Date adopted.
Bye-laws. New Streets and Buildings	10th January, 1879
„ Cleansing of Footways and Pavements	„ „
„ Nuisances	„ „
„ Common Lodging-houses	„ „
„ Offensive Trades	27th April, 1883
Regulations. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	11th December, 1906
Bye-laws. Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures, used for human habitation	25th October, 1921
„ Slaughterhouses	1st November, 1921

New Bye-laws with regard to Offensive Trades were made by the Council on 10th January, 1922, and application made to the Minister of Health for the confirmation of these.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health, also School Medical Officer and Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare. JOHN ALLEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Whole time to these offices)

Consulting Medical Officer HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., F.I.C.

Sanitary Inspector J. W. NORTHCOMBE, C.R.S.I., F.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector F. W. WESTCOTT.

Health Visitor (whole time) Mrs. E. STEWART, C.M.B.

Clerk, acts as Clerk to School Medical Officer and Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare. (Whole time on these duties). ARTHUR W. GOOD.

Grants are payable under the Public Health Acts or from the Exchequer in respect of the Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Inspector and the Health Visitor. The Sanitary Inspector is also an Inspector under the Petroleum Acts but has ceased in this year to act as Inspector of Hackney Carriages.

HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	59
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme ..	56

I.

UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

(1) Inspection. Total number of houses inspected, for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	625
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910. (On page 39 of my report for 1920 I stated that an additional inspector would be required to comply fully with the Housing—Inspection of District—Regulations, 1910) ..	46
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	16

II.

Remedy of defects without service of formal notices. Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers

66

III.

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919	nil.
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	316
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied.	
(a) By owners	382
(b) By Local Authority in default of owner	nil.

C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	I
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	I
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	I
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	I

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE, 1921.

